

In the Claims:

Claims 1-4, 8, 14 and 15 are amended herein. Claims 5-7 are withdrawn, being non-elected. Claims 10-13 are canceled.

1. (currently amended) A method for providing ~~a storage areas~~ area in a storage server for a plurality of portable data ~~terminal~~ terminals connected over a network, said method comprising the steps of:

allocating a uniquely dedicated storage area for each ~~user~~ of users of said plurality of portable data terminals;

storing software, which is purchase-requested at a software sales site on the network by ~~a user,~~ one of the users, from the software sales site into one of the dedicated storage area areas uniquely allocated to ~~the user~~ said one of the users of the storage server without sending the software from the software sales site directly to a portable data terminal of ~~the user~~ said one of the users; and

making available the software, stored in one of the dedicated storage area areas in said storage server, to ~~the user~~ said one of the users in response to a request from ~~the user~~ said one of the users.

2. (currently amended) The method for providing ~~a storage area~~ areas according to claim 1, wherein an expiration date until which ~~the user~~ said one of the users is allowed to use the

software stored in said storage server is set, further comprising the step of making the software, which is in one of the dedicated storage ~~area~~ areas, unavailable to ~~the user~~ said one of the users after the expiration date.

3. (currently amended) The method for providing a storage ~~area~~ areas according to claim 1, further comprising the step of charging ~~the user~~ one of the users for the purchase-requested software when the purchase-request is made, when ~~the user~~ said one of the users downloads the software from said one of the dedicated storage ~~area~~ areas, or when ~~the user~~ said one of the users indicates an intention to continue to use after a trial period passes after the downloading.

4. (currently amended) The method for providing a storage ~~area~~ areas according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

storing software, which is not purchase-requested by one of the ~~user~~ users, into one of the dedicated storage ~~area~~ areas uniquely allocated to said one of the users;

allowing said one of the ~~user~~ users to select the software not purchase-requested; and

charging said one of the ~~user~~ users for the software when said one of the ~~user~~ users downloads the selected software or when said one of the ~~user~~ users indicates an intention to continue to use after a trial period.

5. (withdrawn) A software sales method comprising the steps of:

providing purchasable software in a home page of a sales site;

receiving a purchase request from a user via the home page; and

sending the purchase-requested software or identification information associated therewith to a site of a storage server that has a dedicated storage area allocated specifically to the user without sending the purchase-requested software directly to the user,

wherein the software is stored into the dedicated storage area of the user of said storage server.

6. (withdrawn) The software sales method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of charging the user for the purchase-requested software when the purchase request is made, when the user downloads the software from the dedicated storage area, or when the user indicates an intention to continue to use after a trial period.

7. (withdrawn) A software sales method comprising the steps of:

storing software, which is not purchase-requested by a user of a portable data terminal, into a dedicated storage area in a

storage server, said dedicated storage area being allocated to the user and not being allocated to another user;

allowing the user to select the software not purchase-requested; and

charging the user for the software when the user downloads the selected software or when the user indicates an intention to continue to use after a trial period.

8. (currently amended) A storage server connected to a plurality of portable data terminals over a network, said storage server comprising:

a storage unit having dedicated storage areas, each uniquely allocated to an individual user of ~~a~~ one of said plurality of portable data ~~terminal~~ terminals;

means for receiving software, which is purchase-requested by one of the ~~user~~ users of said plurality of portable data ~~terminal~~ terminals, from a software sales site on the network for storing the software into one of the dedicated storage ~~area~~ areas uniquely allocated to said one of the ~~user~~ users;

a management table storing therein management information about the software stored in the dedicated storage ~~area~~ areas of the ~~user~~ users; and

means for referencing said management table in response to access from one of the ~~user~~ users and for sending the software, which is stored in one of the dedicated storage areas uniquely

allocated to said one of the ~~user~~ users, to the portable data terminal of said one of the ~~user~~ users.

9. (previously presented) The storage server according to claim 8, wherein said storage unit further comprises a common storage area in which an application program body is stored as the software for common use by a plurality of users and wherein data associated with the application program and corresponding to each user is stored separately in the dedicated storage area of the user.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) The method for providing a storage ~~area~~ areas according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of: accepting a purchase request of software from one of the ~~user~~ users at the software sales site; and

receiving, according to said purchase request, the purchase-requested software or identification information associated therewith at a site of said storage server such that said purchase-requested software or identification information associated therewith is stored into said one of the dedicated storage ~~area~~ areas uniquely allocated to one of the ~~user~~ users.

15. (currently amended) The method for providing a storage ~~area~~ areas according to claim 1, wherein said step of storing software into a one of the dedicated storage ~~area~~ areas allocated uniquely to said one of the ~~user~~ users, is performed after the software is purchase-requested at a software sales site on the network by the said one of the ~~user~~ users.